

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/635,061

Examiner

Douglas E. Mazzuca

Applicant(s)

NAVE ET AL.

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/01/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

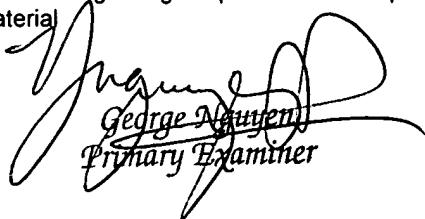
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 03092006, 20060313.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


George Nguyen
Primary Examiner

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Justin Dillon on March 10, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification, Paragraph 0022: The sentence, --The shelf (31) is positioned on the upper portion (47) such that it lies in a longitudinal plane with the bottom surface of the lower portion (45).--, has been added to the end of the paragraph.

Claim 1 (currently amended) has been deleted in its entirety and substituted thereof:

A tool for installing and removing a flexible flat cable with respect to a protective sleeve having a longitudinal opening therein, the tool comprising:

a body having a longitudinal axis and a slot formed in the body longitudinally about the axis, the slot having a generally arcuate shape with a closed end on one side of the body, and an open end on an opposite side of the body, wherein, the open end forms a receptacle that is adapted to allow lateral ingress and egress of the flexible flat cable, and when a longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable is located in the slot, the longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable

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defines a chord having a dimension that is less than a lateral dimension of the longitudinal opening of the protective sleeve;

and a shelf formed in the body adjacent to the open end of the slot that is adapted to capture a side edge of the flexible flat cable in order to retain the longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable in the body; wherein, the slot segments the body into a lower portion, having a bottom surface, and an upper portion; such that the shelf is connected to the upper portion, and the shelf lies in a longitudinal plane along with said bottom surface of the lower portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): the phrase, "the slot segments the body into a lower portion and an upper portion, and", has been deleted.

Claims 26 and 27 have been deleted.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or suggest a tool for installing and removing a flexible flat cable with respect to a protective sleeve having a longitudinal opening. Although other tools such as the clips and other holding devices mentioned in the previous office action closely resemble the claimed invention, they do not meet the structural requirements of the present invention, where the slot of the tool segments the body in to a lower portion, having a bottom surface, and an upper portion; such that the shelf is connected to the upper portion, and the shelf lies in a longitudinal plane along

with said bottom surface of the lower portion, in combination with all of the other claim limitations.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas E. Mazzuca whose telephone number is (571)272-7813. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4PM Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Nguyen can be reached on (571)272-4491. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Douglas Mazzuca
March 13, 2006

DEM


George Nguyen
Primary Examiner